

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ACDA-05 ISO-00 IO-10 NEA-09 EA-06 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 EB-07

AID-05 IGA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /103 W

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R 290940Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6657

INFO RUDKRB AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 2181

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION US BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCEUR

CINCLANT

CINCPAC

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

SHAPE

USDEL USSCC GENEVA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD

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CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLAD

SHAPE FOR POLAD
USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON THE U.S., DETENTE

1. SUMMARY: THE SOVIET PRESS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS HAS INCREASED ITS EMPHASIS ON THE CONTINUING NEED FOR STABLE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION, VOICING INCREASING CONFIDENCE THAT THE SOVIET UNION'S ACTION IN REJECTING THE TRADE LAW WAS "PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD" BY INFLUENTIAL CIRCLES IN THE U.S. AND ELSEWHERE. STATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY CONFIRMING CONTINUED U.S. INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WERE GIVEN PROMINENT PLAY. SOVIET JOURNALIST CONTACTS HAVE ALSO EMPHASIZED THEIR BELIEF THAT IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE. THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING BREZHNEV THIS SUMMER WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE CENTRAL PRESS.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, THE U.S. CONTINUED TO BE ON THE RECEIVING END OF HARSH POLEMICS ON THE GENERAL THEMES OF U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA; ALLEGED PLANS TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN THE MIDDLE EAST; AND, TO A LESSER DEGREE, AID TO ISRAEL. THE ABSOLUTE NUMBER OF ARTICLES EMPHASIZING U.S. DOMESTIC PROBLEMS HAS DECREASED SOMEWHAT SINCE THE PEAK REACHED IN THE FIRST PART OF JANUARY, THOUGH THE TONE REMAINS STRIDENT.

3. 3. IN CONTRAST TO IZVESTIYA AND OTHER GOVERNMENT-ASSOCIATED PRESS, PRAVDA IN EDITORIAL COMMENT CONTINUES TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR SOLIDARITY AMONG PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM, PORTRAYING THIS REVERSE SIDE OF THE SOVIET DETENTE COIN AS THE PROPER COURSE TOWARD IRREVERSIBLE DETENTE. END SUMMARY.

4. OVER THE WEEKEND A SERIES OF SIGNED COMMENTARIES APPEARED IN THE SOVIET PRESS EXPRESSING SATISFACTION THAT THE SOVIET UNION'S ACTION IN REFUSING TO ACCEPT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE TRADE ACT HAS BEEN PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE OUTSIDE WORLD. THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE OF THESE, A LENGTHY ARTICLE IN THE DECEMBER 27 ISVESTIYA BY DEPUTY FOREIGN EDITOR V. OSIPOV, MAKES THE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS: THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT'S ACTION HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS JUSTIFIED; THIS UNDERSTANDING FOR ITS ACTION INDICATES HOW STABLE THE PROCESS OF DETENTE HAS BECOME, HOW FAR IT HAS GONE; AND THE TRADE ACT ISSUE HAS AGAIN IMPRESSED

UPON THE WORLD THE IMPORTANCE OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS.

5. OSIPOV CALLS MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES "ABSOLUTELY VITAL IN THE NUCLEAR AGE". HE EMPHASIZES THAT THE U.S., ESPECIALLY THE BUSINESS WORLD, NOW BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND--"ON CAPITOL HILL AS WELL"-- THAT THE WHOLE AFFAIR HAS REDOUNDED TO DISADVANTAGE OF U.S. HE CONCLUDES THAT "THE PROCESS OF DETENTE, WHICH ALL NATIONS NEED, NOT LEAST THE U.S., WILL GO FORWARD THE MORE SUCCESSFULLY THE MORE QUICKLY THE 'VIEWS OF A CERTAIN SENATOR' LOSE THE FORCE OF LAW. BUT THIS IS A MATTER FOR AMERICAN LEGISLATORS".

6. OTHER COMMENTARIES FOLLOWING THIS SAME GENERAL LINE WERE PUBLISHED IN NOVOYE VREMYA (DEPUTY EDITOR M. FEDOROV'S ARTICLE ENTITLED "BOOMERANG"); SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA (JANUARY 28 COMMENTARY BY SHISHKIN); AND SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' (JANUARY 28 COMMENTARY BY LOSEV). IN AN UNSIGNED COMMENTARY, THE JANUARY 24 ZA RUBESHOM STATED THAT THE WORLD PRESS REACTION TO THE TRADE LAW SHOWS THAT DETENTE HAS "PLANTED DEEP SEEDS" IN THE MINDS OF MILLIONS, AND THAT SOVIET-AMERICAN COOPERATION WILL DEVELOP IN THE INTERESTS OF WORLD PEACE. EDITOR IN CHIEF OF ZA RUBEZHON, KRAMINOV, MADE POINT TO CHARGE DURING INTRODUCTORY CALL ON JAN 27 THAT SOVIET UNION DID NOT CONSIDER ITS JUSTIFIED REJECTION OF CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADE AGREEMENT AS AFFECTING ITS BROADER COMMITMENT TO IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. WE GOT SAME LINE AT JANUARY 27 RECEPTION FROM TASS DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT AND MFA PRESS DIVISION OFFICIAL.

7. THE PRAVDA JANUARY 26 WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW
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CONTINUES THAT PAPER'S RECENT EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR SOLIDARITY OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPERIALISM. IT MAKES THE POINT THAT THE SOCIALIST STATES WILL USE THEIR ACQUIRED MATERIAL AND ECONOMIC MIGHT TO CONTINUE A POLICY OF NORMALIZING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND MAKING DETENTE IRREVERSIBLE. IT COMMENTS THAT "THE NOTEWORTHY CHARACTERISTIC OF PRESENT SOCIO-POLITICAL PROCESSES IS THE UNIVERSAL GROWTH OF THE FORCES STRUGGLING FOR PEACE... THE PROCESS OF THE STRENGTHENING, ACTIVIZATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF REVOLUTIONARY, ANTI-IMPERIALISTIC FORCES CONTINUES." IT ALSO NOTES THAT THE "ACHIEVEMENT OF CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE USSR" IS ACCEPTED BY "REALISTICALLY THINKING AMERICAN OFFICIALS" AS A NECESSARY CONDITION FOR PEACE.

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCEUR

CINCLANT

CINCPAC

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

SHAPE

USDEL USSCC GENEVA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

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8. STATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY SUPPORTING IMPROVED RELATIONS HAVE RECEIVED WIDE PLAY. THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH YOUNG SOVIET JOURNALISTS RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE; HIS STATEMENT THAT HE EXPECTS TO SEE BREZHNEV

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THIS SUMMER WAS INCLUDED IN A PRAVDA ARTICLE TITLED "FORD FOR CONTINUATION OF CONTACT WITH BREZHNEV." HIS HOPE, EXPRESSED IN HIS JANUARY 21 PRESS CONFERENCE, THAT COOPERATION IN BROADENING TRADE WILL CONTINUE AND THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE ABLE TO REMOVE PROBLEM PROVISIONS IN THE TRADE ACT WAS MENTIONED IN SEVERAL ARTICLES. COVERAGE OF THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH IN LOS ANGELES HIGH-LIGHTED HIS EMPHASIS ON SALT AND OTHER PAST SUCCESSES; THE IMPORTANCE OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS FOR WORLD PEACE; AND HIS CRITICISM OF CONGRESS FOR TRYING TO LEGISLATE THE DETAILS OF FOREIGN POLICY.

9. THOUGH THE NUMBER OF ARTICLES CRITICIZING THE DOMESTIC SITUATION IN THE U.S. HAS DROPPED SOMEWHAT, THE TONE REMAINS STRIDENT. COVERAGE OF THE NEFARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE CIA HAS DROPPED CONSIDERABLY. ON MANY MORE SUBSTANTIVE FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, HOWEVER, PRESS COVERAGE HAS BECOME EVEN MORE HARSH.

10. SOUTHEAST ASIA: THE JANUARY 24 ZA RUBEZHOM, IN A LEAD EDITORIAL, ACCUSES THE U.S. OF "FLAGRANT VIOLATION" OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS. THIS SAME LINE IS ECHOED, THOUGH IN LESS EXPLICIT LANGUAGE IN OTHER REPORTING ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THIS REPORTING REPEATEDLY MAKES THE POINT THAT THE PROBLEMS OF VIETNAM ARE THE FAULT OF THIEU AND THE U.S. (SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS "FOREIGN PATRONS," SOMETIMES NAMED). EXCERPTS FROM PRG AND DRV STATEMENTS CONDEMNING U.S. INTERFERENCE IN SOUTH VIETNAM ARE REPORTED IN TASS ITEMS. U.S. DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO INCREASED AID FOR SOUTH VIETNAM IS BEING PLAYED UP. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA HAS CONDEMNED U.S. RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER NORTH VIETNAM AND SEVENTH FLEET MOVEMENTS IN THE CHINA SEA.

11. MIDDLE EAST: ALLEGED THREATS BY THE U.S. TO INTERVENE IN THE OIL STATES IS THE FOCUS FOR PERHAPS THE MAJORITY OF CRITICAL COVERAGE OF THE U.S. AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE SOURCES OF THESE ALLEGED THREATS IN PAST WEEKS. PRESENT PRACTICE IS TO REFER TO SUCH THREATS AS COMING FROM "RESPONSIBLE STATES-MEN" OR "DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON". THE U.S. AS A NATION IS IDENTIFIED WITH THESE THREATS; I.E., NOT "CERTAIN CIRCLES," BUT RATHER: "THE U.S. HAS THREATENED TO OCCUPY

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...". U.S. CONVERSATIONS WITH OMAN ON ACQUIRING LANDING

RIGHTS ARE PORTRAYED IN THE PRESS AS ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN ANOTHER MILITARY BASE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND AS SUCH ARE LINKED TO ALLEGED PLANS FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE GULF STATES.

12. AID TO ISRAEL: PRESIDENT FORD'S CONFIRMATION IN HIS NBC INTERVIEW THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE RECEIVING INCREASED U.S. AID WAS REPORTED WITHOUT COMMENT. ALSO NOTED WAS REPORT THAT U.S. INTENDED TO SELL 200 DUAL-CAPABLE LANCE MISSILES TO ISRAEL. THE PRAVDA WEEKLY REVIEW TOOK THE UNUSUAL LINE THAT ISRAEL IS "EXTORTING" AID FROM THE U.S. WITHOUT FURTHER CLARIFYING USE OF THAT VERB.
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